IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus~~, for use with delivery of respiratory gases to a patient~~ comprising:

a mask ~~patient interface, having a~~ body ~~section~~ adapted to cover the nose, or nose and mouth of ~~said~~ a patient, and

a sealing interface, including at least an outer sealing member arranged about an opening in said mask body,

said outer sealing member including a peripheral wall adapted to attach to said body section in a sealing manner, said peripheral wall including a bridge region that extends over a patient's nasal bridge in use,

said bridge region of said peripheral wall ~~outer sealing member~~ having a ~~substantially thin section in at least its nasal bridge region, said thin section being substantially~~ thinner cross-section than the rest of said peripheral wall ~~outer sealing member~~,

wherein said outer sealing member is adapted to seal around the facial contours of ~~said~~ a patient thereby providing a sealed fluid communication to the respiratory tract of said patient.

2. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rest of said peripheral wall of said outer sealing member is at least twice the cross-sectional thickness of said bridge region thin section.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said patient interface is a full face mask.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said patient interface is a nasal mask.

7. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said sealing interface includes an inner cushion, ~~sealing member fittable into said outer sealing member and~~ said inner ~~sealing member~~ cushion has a raised section ~~cut out region~~ in ~~the nasal~~ said bridge region.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said inner ~~sealing member~~ cushion and said outer sealing member are continuously in contact ~~both in use and when not in use around the facial contour contacting region~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said inner ~~sealing member~~ cushion includes a ~~cheek~~ contoured region that is positioned adjacent a patient's cheeks in use, ~~of said facial contour contacting region wherein~~ said ~~cheek~~ contoured

region is concave so as to accommodate the cartilage extending away from ~~the middle of~~ the nose of a patient.

12. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said bridge region of said peripheral wall ~~facial contour contacting portion comprises a nasal bridge region whereby said nasal bridge region~~ is tapered away from said patient with respect to the remainder of said ~~facial contour contacting portion~~ peripheral wall.

13-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said outer sealing member has a contacting portion that extends about said peripheral wall and is configured to contact a patient's face,

said peripheral wall of said outer sealing member extending between said mask body and said contacting portion, said contacting portion shaped to approximately follow the contours of a patient's face.

21. (New) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said contacting portion is a peripheral ridge,

said outer sealing member including a sealing flange that extends inwardly from said peripheral ridge, said sealing flange configured to seal said breathing assistance apparatus against a patient's face.

22. (New) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said sealing flange has a reduced cross-sectional thickness compared with said peripheral wall.

23. (New) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said sealing flange is shaped to follow the contours of said peripheral ridge.

24. (New) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said breathing assistance apparatus further comprises an inner cushion arranged about said opening in said mask and adjacent said outer sealing member, said inner cushion in continuous contact with said outer sealing member at said contacting portion.

25. (New) A user interface comprising:

a mask body, and

a resilient sealing member arranged about an opening in the mask body,

the sealing member comprising a peripheral wall that extends from the mask body, the wall including a bridge region that is positioned adjacent a user's nasal bridge in use,

the bridge region having a reduced material thickness to permit the bridge region to deform sufficiently to accommodate a user's nose.

26. (New) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of adjacent portions of the peripheral wall.

27. (New) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of the remainder of the peripheral wall.

28. (New) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the resilient sealing member further comprises a contacting portion configured to contact a user's face, the contacting portion extending about the peripheral wall.

29. (New) A user interface according to claim 26 wherein the resilient sealing member further comprises a sealing flange configured to form a seal with a user's face, the sealing flange extending inwardly from the contacting portion.

30. (New) A user interface according to claim 27 wherein the contacting portion and the sealing flange are shaped approximately to a user's facial contours.

31. (New) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the peripheral wall has a flattened base securing portion configured engage with a complimentary securing track arranged about the opening in the mask body to secure the sealing member in place.

32. (New) A sealing member for a user interface comprising:

a peripheral wall arranged in a loop and configured to enclose a user's nose or nose and mouth, the peripheral wall having a mask end configured to engage with a respiratory mask and

an user end configured to contact a user's face, and

a sealing flange arranged about the user end of the peripheral wall and projecting inwardly of the closed loop, the sealing flange configured to seal against a user's face, the peripheral wall including a bridge region that is positioned adjacent a user's nasal bridge in use, the bridge region having a significantly reduced cross-sectional thickness.

33. (New) A sealing member according to claim 32 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of adjacent portions of the peripheral wall.

34. (New) A sealing member according to claim 32 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of the remainder of the peripheral wall.

35. (New) A sealing member according to claim 32 wherein a contacting ridge is formed at an interface between the peripheral wall and the sealing flange, the contacting ridge being shaped approximately to the contours of a user's face.